

Why Recycle?

Recycling has a tremendous impact on our community and on society at large. Below are just a few of the many reasons to participate in Lansing's recycling program.

Recycling and Reuse Add Value to the U.S. Economy:

According to The National Recycling Economic Information Study, the recycling and reuse industry consists of approximately 56,000 establishments that employ over 1.1 million people, generate an annual payroll of nearly \$37 billion, and gross over \$236 billion in annual revenues. This represents a significant force in the U.S. economy and makes a vital contribution to job creation and economic development.

Recycling Saves Energy when compared to using virgin materials. For example, aluminum recycling vs. mining bauxite ore to produce new aluminum results in an energy savings of over 90%.

Recycling reduces air and water pollution - By decreasing the need for raw materials, recycling can eliminate the pollution associated with the first two stages of a products development: material extraction and processing. These activities pollute the air, land, and water with toxic materials, such as ammonia, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, and sulfur dioxides. Recycling reduces, and in many cases eliminates, these pollutants.

Recycling conserves oil, gas, trees, metal ores and other raw materials - For example: one ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 lbs. of ore, 1000 lbs. coal, and 40 lbs. limestone (Source: Center for Ecological Technology)



Start and Don't Stop Recycling

Residents are strongly encouraged to participate in the recycling program. The City of Lansing strives to keep the service as convenient as possible to make it a simple chore. Even so, there are many people who still don't recycle. If you are not currently participating in the program, please give it a try. It's easy to do and you could save money by throwing away less trash.

If you've never recycled or have given up on it, try recycling just a few items. Choose one or two materials like newspapers, junk mail or milk jugs. Chances are you'll make a habit out of it rather quickly, realize how easy it is and eventually increase the number of items you recycle.

It is important that residents follow the preparation guidelines. These requirements are, in part, established by local processors who receive the recyclable materials. Our recycling program was designed to rely on residents and our trained drivers to do the sorting for us, which provides the cleanest and most marketable products possible.

If you have ever received a tag in your recycling bin or have had an item left behind, it's either because that particular material is not accepted or it was prepared incorrectly. The tags are one of the methods used to educate residents on how to properly set out materials. It may seem like there are a lot of items not accepted, like plastics other than #1 and #2, but most everything for which there is a solid market (reliable vendor to accept and pay for materials) is collected. For example, paper makes up the majority of the waste stream (40-50%) and we accept many types. #1 and #2 plastics make up the majority of plastics generated in most households and both are accepted in our program.

The City of Lansing's recycling program is truly making a difference. It is our hope that every City of Lansing resident will one day participate. The more people who take advantage of the service, the greater economic and environmental benefits for all.

As always, if there is ever any question about what is accepted or any other aspect of our program, please contact us at 483-4400 or recycle@ci.lansing.mi.us.

Additional information is also available on the website: www.publicservice.cityoflansingmi.com/recycle.